

Dr. Navin Khanna of ICGEB selected for Padma Shri Award 2020

By Dr. Bilqeesa Bhat

Eminent scientist Dr. Navin Khanna from International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology has been selected for the coveted Padma Shri Award in Science and Engineering category for 2020. He gets the fourth highest civilian award for his efforts to translate his laboratory research into socially useful products.



Dr Navin Khanna, Scientist, ICGEB New Delhi

The diagnostic kits developed by Dr. Khanna are used in India and are exported to several other countries. The Dengue Day 1 kit launched in 2012 has captured more than 70% of the market share. The kit can detect Dengue infection from day 1 of the fever.

Dr. Khanna is presently an Arturo Falaschi Emeritus Scientist and Group Leader at Recombinant Gene Products Laboratory at ICGEB. He is also an adjunct professor at the Translational Health Sciences and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad and School of Medicine at Emory University, Atlanta, USA. He is a fellow of all three Science Academies of India and his translational work has been recognized by several awards and honors,

He holds a doctoral degree in Biochemistry from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He was an Alberta Heritage Foundation Fellow at University of Calgary, Canada. He worked as a post-graduate research biologist at the Center for Molecular Genetics, University of California San Diego (UCSD), and later as a Research Assistant Professor at University of California Irvine (UCI).

Dr. Khanna has been working on genetically engineered bio-molecules of medical use at ICGEB. The “know-how” from his team has resulted in successful commercialization of 23 diagnostic kits for viral infections.

The recombinant proteins developed in his laboratory have led to several tie-ups with diagnostic companies like Tulip Group, J Mitra and Co., for the development of diagnostic kits. Many of these diagnostic kits are now market leaders.

The availability of high quality diagnostic intermediates from his team to manufactures of

diagnostic kits has reduced production costs significantly. At present, his major research activities are focused towards the development of safe affordable and effective vaccines, and a plant-based drug in collaboration with the Sun Pharma.